

REMARKS

Claims 21-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Eichstaedt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,385,619) in view of Hunt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,893,091). Applicants herein amend claims 21, 24-27, 29-32, 34, 39-40, 42-44, 46-47, and 49-51; cancel claims 33, 45, and 52; and present new claims 54-55 to more accurately convey the subject matter for which applicants seek protection. As a result, claims 21-32, 34-44, 46-51 and 53-55 are presently pending. For the reasons set forth in detail below, applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

The applicants' representative wishes to thank the Examiner for the helpful interview on January 23, 2007. During the interview, the parties discussed Eichstaedt, claim 21, and embodiments of the invention. If the Examiner believes that any additional information regarding the interview is necessary, please let the undersigned attorney know.

The Examiner has rejected claims 21-53 as unpatentable over Eichstaedt in view of Hunt. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Each of the independent claims as previously presented recites "the alerting entity is not the participant", i.e., the entity that provides the alerts is not the same entity that receives notifications. Eichstaedt does not disclose or suggest this element. Rather, Eichstaedt discloses a system in which a user's access to a set of structured documents is analyzed for the purposes of pushing customized information back to that same user, at col. 3, lines 14-19.

Applicants have amended certain claims as specified above. Support for the amendments may be found in the specification at, e.g., pp. 9, 11, 26 and 31. Applicants respectfully submit that the proposed amended claims are further patentable over Eichstaedt and Hunt. For example, amended claim 21 recites calculating a list rank value for a network accessible item and notifying the participant based at least in part on the item's calculated list rank value. Eichstaedt does not disclose or suggest this element.

Rather, Eichstaedt discloses ranking categories, not documents within the categories, at col. 3, line 26 to col. 4, line 27. Hunt similarly lacks such a disclosure or suggestion.

Furthermore, Eichstaedt and Hunt fail to disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 21, "the network accessible item is associated with content that changes over time; the alert indicates that the content of the network accessible item at the current time is of interest; and the alert is based on a change in the content of the network accessible item." For that additional reason the claims are further allowable.

In view of the foregoing, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 345288017US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: January 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Christopher J. Daley-Watson

Registration No.: 34,807

PERKINS COIE LLP

P.O. Box 1247

Seattle, Washington 98111-1247

(206) 359-8000

(206) 359-7198 (Fax)

Attorney for Applicant